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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Obrance VlastiACTIVITIES OF THE SVAZARM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIAPreparations for Civil Defense

Svazarm (Sval Spoluprace s Armadou, Union for Cooperation With the Army) activists from each kraj, or Czechoslovakia met in Prague [during the week of 17 August 1953]. The central groups [members of Svazarm] represented were UAVNF (Ustredni Akeni Vybor Narodni Fronty, Central Aktiv Committee of the National Front), URO (Ustredni Rada Olboru, Central Trades Union Council), UV CSM (Ustredni Vybor Ceskoslovenskeho Svazu Mladose, Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Youth Union), and UV CSPO (Ustredni Vybor Ceskoslovenskeho Svazu Pozarni Ochrany, Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Union for Fire Prevention).

A mutual conference of this type was necessary in order to facilitate the preparation for CO (Civilni Obranu, Civil Defense). Civil defense workers in the krajs, and the members of Svazarm in the okreses, continually request assistance from a central source, in order to improve the organization of preparatory work for civil defense. The functionaries attending the conference intend to organize civil defense in their sectors with the cooperation of the Aktiv Committees of the National Front.

The purpose of civil defense is to make each physically fit citizen cognizant of the provisions made for his personal defense in the event of enemy attack. To implement this aim it will be necessary for all sectors participating in the establishment of civil defense to agree with and conform to the directive of the National Committee, which will delegate duties. Centralized assistance, which will be given the kraj and okres committees of Svazarm, will aid them in planning, directing, and carrying out various activities in their own sectors. Local administrations should follow the plans for establishing a strong civil defense in their krajs, okreses, and localities even before concluding the harvest.

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Reports made by kraj activists indicate that centralized organization of civil defense on the local level has not been put into practice. It is also evident that recruiting by the Czechoslovak Red Cross for first-aid groups, by the CSPO for fire-prevention work, and by the Self-Aid groups (who are Svazarm instructors) is done independently, with no centralized plan. The groups compete with each other and occasionally one person will be enrolled in several groups at the same time. The reports further show that, without the help of party organs and local people's organizations, Svazarm civil defense units will labor under a constant lack of specialist-instructors, as well as a lack of training centers and equipment for practical instruction.

It is imperative to publicize civil defense preparations so that the people will not consider them merely to be provisions for defense in the event of an enemy attack. Civil defense will also function in the event of epidemics, accidents, fires, and subversive or arsonist activity on the part of [enemy] agents. There have been many examples of the combating of such activity as a result of civil defense training. An arsonist was caught recently before he could succeed in setting fire to the entire harvest in his locality.

The educational activity of CO should centralize and channel the activity of CSCK (Ceskoslovensky Cerveny Kriz, Czechoslovak Red Cross), CSPO, and Svazarm. Individual divisions of CO and each sector must also recruit citizens to compete for the PCO (Pripraven k Civilni Obrane, Prepared for Civil Defense) medal.

Need for Bolshevik Propaganda Methods

Political propaganda in all the training groups of Svazarm, and during the instruction period of all gatherings, and conferences, is an inseparable part of daily work. No sector can do without such political work, evaluation, and reasoning, which is of great importance in the army and, therefore, also in Svazarm. We must continue to emulate the Soviet and Dosaaf political workers.

The recent armistice in Korea, brought about by the victorious Korean and Chinese volunteer forces, proved that technological and numerical superiority is not the decisive factor in war. The defeat of the renowned US "undefeatable military technique" is the best proof that technique, arms, and superior numbers without political indoctrination, are insufficient.

Hence, in Svazarm great stress is laid on political indoctrination and on the work of the responsible political worker, the propagandist. Kalinin said, "A good example of bravery and military technique is necessary, but most important is the masterly and self-sacrificing work of the propagandist, the political worker, and all Communists."

Therein lies our greatest weakness. We have not selected our propagandists with sufficient care. We have taken for granted that someone who reads and speaks well will make a good propagandist. We have not selected those who are the best and most disciplined pupils, we have not made enough use of party and youth organizations, and finally we have not found a good method of systematic training and development of our propagandists.

What qualities are needed for a good Bolshevik propagandist? He must be unassuming, sincere, and friendly. He must not be proud, conceited, or boastful of his superior knowledge. He must have the skill to persuade his listeners to exchange ideas. He must be able to propound leading questions for discussion and also to determine which side of an argument is right. He must always speak the truth and must not be afraid to assert himself. He must be the leader of the masses and in difficult moments must be able to disperse gloom and raise the morale of his group. He must always evaluate the people and conditions among which he finds himself.

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The experience of the Soviet Dosaaf has shown conclusively that word-of-mouth propaganda activity is more effective than any other. Kalinin also said, "If the party newspapers are only read but not discussed, there is little point in reading them at all.

It is the open discussion, where the material has been examined and individually discussed, that causes the subject to be thoroughly absorbed by the people." Bulletin boards, placards, photographs, charts, and all other visual aids should be used more generously and not underestimated. -- Ad. Kuba

Svazarm Training for Youth

In conformance with the new law on education, Czechoslovak schools are preparing for the new school year after a complete reorganization. Teachers and professors will try to improve the quality of their methods so that pupils will learn most thoroughly the subjects necessary for socialistic tasks, and will not be overwhelmed with knowledge which will be of little use to them in their future life.

The cultural and athletic life of the youth has been the responsibility CSM (Ceskoslovensky Svaz Mladeze, Czechoslovak Youth Union), and the DSO (Dobrovolna Sportovni Organizace, Volunteer Sport Organization). Svazarm, a well-known organization with thousands of members, will also be added this year. During its organizational build-up, Svazarm directed its efforts to enterprises, factories, offices, and JZD (Jednotne Zemelelske Drustve, Unified Agricultural Cooperatives). Now in the second stage of its development, it is establishing ZO (Zakladni Organizace, Basic Organizations) in the schools and educational centers of the working youth.

Svazarm, which is patterned on the Soviet Dosaaf, will assist the army and other militarized groups by teaching various military and specialized arts to the entire population.

During its first brief period of activity, Svazarm has had good results in the teaching of various arts, such as marksmanship, sailing, parachuting, skiing, and amateur radio techniques. The new organization enables youngsters to learn such arts as an extracurricular activity. Boys and girls 14 years of age and older may enroll in Svazarm. Its training in athletics, basic military subjects, and the use of firearms will be effective in molding intelligent and physically and mentally mature young people. -- Maj Vilem Dolezal, first vice-president of the UV (Uredni Vybor, Central Committee of Svazarm)

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